The Office of the National Coordinator for
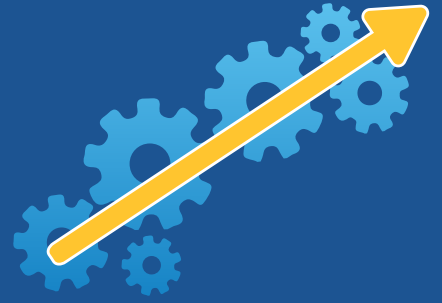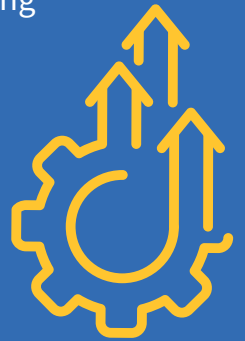Health Information Technology

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT:
INTEROPERABILITY, INFORMATION BLOCKING, AND
THE ONC HEALTH IT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM PROPOSED RULE

Standards Version Advancement Process

WHAT IS NEW?

- The Standards Version Advancement Process would allow developers to choose among the versions of standards and implementation specifications listed in regulation or National Coordinator (NC)-approved newer version updates for any or all standards applicable to criteria subject to real world testing requirements.

- This flexibility to choose among NC-approved versions of standards and implementation specifications would be available both when developers seek initial certification or to maintain certification of a Heath IT Module.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

To take advantage of the flexibility to update to NC-approved versions, a developer will need to:

- Notify its ONC-Authorized Certification Body (ONC-ACB) and its customers of its intent to move to newer NC-approved standards version updates as well as whether, and for how long, they might plan to continue supporting prior versions of the standards.

- Ensure the standards version updates are effectively implemented.

- Address standards version updates in the required annual real world testing plans and results.

- Demonstrate conformance of its health IT to all applicable criteria including, but not limited to, any NC-approved standards versions it has chosen to incorporate into its certified Health IT Module.

How Versions Get Approved

Consider Available Updates
Publish Draft
Comments on Draft
Comment Review
Determinations Published
Ongoing Dialogue

This informational resource describes select proposals in the proposed rule but is not an official statement of any policy. Please refer to the official version of the proposed rule as published in the Federal Register.